



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

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**NEWMARKET MAN GUILTY IN BEDFORD BURGLARIES
AND SALE OF STOLEN COMPUTERS VIA INTERNET**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced today that Brian Samson, age 22 of Newmarket, NH, pleaded guilty in Federal Court to mail fraud charges. Samson admitted that he and an associate burglarized Samson's former employer, Lightship Telecom of Bedford, NH, on October 3, 2001, and then again on August 15, 2002. During the two burglaries Samson and his associate stole more than \$50,000 worth of computer equipment. Samson also admitted that he and his associate sold most of the stolen computer equipment on the E-Bay Internet auction site to unsuspecting purchasers. After making the fraudulent sales through the E-Bay auction site and taking payment through Internet banks Samson and his associate mailed and shipped the stolen equipment to purchasers across the country.

Samson is scheduled to be sentenced on April 24, 2003 by Chief Judge Paul J. Barbadoro. He faces a maximum prison sentence of five years and a fine of up to \$250,000. He will also be ordered to make full restitution to the victims of this crime.

After the plea of guilty was entered U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono stated: "The Internet is a wonderful resource which unfortunately is being abused more and more frequently by criminals. This office will continue to work closely with federal and local law enforcement agencies to track down and prosecute criminals such as Mr. Samson who use the Internet to conduct criminal activities. We will continue to be pursue these cases vigorously."

The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service with assistance from the FBI and the Bedford, NH Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Arnold Huftalen.